REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 were rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1, 11 and 18 have been amended. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Drawing Requirements:

The drawings were required under 37 CFR 1.81.

Applicants submit Figures 1 and 2 to meet the requirement.

Figure 1 is a block diagram of system for controlling the operation of equipment. The elements: an equipment 3, an analyzer module 5, a controller interface 7, a control host 9, a communication link 11, a controller link 13 and an access device 15, in Figure 1, are illustrated on pages 6-8 of the application. Figure 2 is a flowchart of a control mechanism provided by the system of the Figure 1. All of the steps in Figure 2 are illustrated on page 9 of the application.

Thus, no new matter is introduced by Figures 1 and 2.

Accordingly, entering of Figures 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claim 18 was objected to for informalities.

Claim 18 has been amended to change its dependency from Claim 1 to Claim 11.

Thus, withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 18 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the method invention, in which "when said equipment is electroplating equipment generating a plating rate, the step of generating an operations analysis of said equipment includes: generating said operations analysis of said plating rate; and selecting said at least one parameter from the group of replenishment flow rate and agitation rate."

Thus, withdrawal of the claim rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Eckles et al., US 4,326,940 (hereinafter "Eckles") for the reasons stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Eckles, however, does not disclose or teach each and every element, for example, "an access device," as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a "system for controlling the operation of equipment, said operation of said equipment being adjustable via at least one parameter setting, comprising: ... an access device being in communication with said control host, said access device checking said operations analysis and said adjustment of said at least one parameter, and overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings for said equipment when control loop mechanism provided by said system is drifting." Support for the amendment can be found in lines 12-21 of page 8 of the Application.

In Claim 1, when the "control loop mechanism provided by said system is drifting," the "access device ... overrides[ing] said control host to provide corrective parameter settings for said equipment."

Eckles discloses automatic analyzing systems for electroplating baths. Although Eckles discloses controlling the addition of additives to a bath to maintain the chemical nature of the bath, Eckles does not disclose or teach a device for "overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings" for controlling and correcting the settings of the addition of the additives to the bath.

Thus, Eckles neither discloses nor teaches the element: "an access device being in communication with said control host, said access device checking said operations analysis and said adjustment of said at least one parameter, and overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings for said equipment when a control loop mechanism provided by said system is drifting," as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Eckles does not anticipate or render obvious Claim 1.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite a "method for controlling the operation of equipment, said operation of said equipment being adjustable via at least one parameter setting, comprising ... checking said operations analysis and said adjustment of said at least one parameter, and overriding said adjustment and providing corrective parameter settings for said equipment when a control loop mechanism of said equipment is drifting."

Claim 11 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for Claim 1.

Claims 2 and 5-7 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 12 and 14-16 depend from Claim 11. Claims 2, 5-7, 12 and 14-16 are believed to be allowable due to their dependencies on Claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 3-4, 8-9, 13 and 17

Claims 3-4, 8-9, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckles in view of Reid, US 6,458,262 B1 (hereinafter "Reid") for the reasons stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Reid discloses controlling electroplating processes based on plating bath composition data, however, Reid does not teach or suggest a device for "overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings" to control the results of a computer and correcting the control of the computer as taught by Claim 1. Thus, Reid neither teaches nor suggests the element: "an access device in communication with said control host, said access device checking said operations analysis and said adjustment of said at least one parameter, and overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings for said equipment when a control loop mechanism provided by said system is drifting," as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Reid does not cure the deficiency of Eckles.

Thus, the combination of Eckles and Reid does not render Claim 1 obvious.

Claim 11 is believed to be allowable over the combination of Eckles and Reid for at least the reasons given for Claim 1.

Claims 3-4 and 8-9 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 13 and 17 depend from Claim 11. Claims 3-4, 8-9, 13 and 17 are believed to be allowable due to their dependencies on Claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claims 10 and 18

Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckles in view of Forand et al., US 5,476,578 A (hereinafter "Forand") for the reasons stated on page 5 of the Office Action.

Forand discloses wiping the catholic coating surface of sheet during continuous electroplating. Although Forand discloses information about an electroplating process, Forand does not disclose or teach "monitoring said operation of said equipment " and "adjusting said at least one parameter" as recited in Claims 1 and 11. Further, Forand does not teach "an access device ...overriding said control host to provide corrective parameter settings for said equipment as recited in Claim 1, nor "overriding said adjustment and providing corrective parameter settings" as recited in Claim 11.

Thus, Forand does not cure deficiencies of Eckles and Ride. Accordingly, the combination of Eckles, Ride and Forand does not render Claims 1 and 11 obvious.

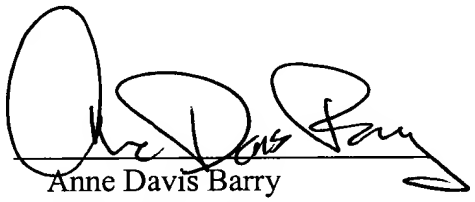
Claim 10 depends from Claim 1, and Claim 18 depends from Claim 11. Thus, Claims 10 and 18 are believed to be allowable due to their dependencies on Claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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